



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Werner Menk
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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits the documents listed hereinbelow, copies enclosed.

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 5,236,660 entitled HEAT-RESISTANT VERMICULAR OR SPHEROIDAL GRAPHITE CAST IRON, By Reynaud et al., patented August 17, 1993. The abstract is attached hereto.
- (2) U.S. Patent No. 5,784,882 entitled EXHAUST MANIFOLD FOR CONDUCTING EXHAUST GAS OUT OF AN INTERNAL COMBUSTION ENGINE, By Bonny et al., patented July 28, 1998. The abstract is attached hereto.

- (3) U.K. Patent No. 1 482 724, entitled WEAR-RESISTANT CAST-IRON ALLOY, By Beyer et al., published August 10, 1977. This patent discloses an alloy having fine-grain carbidic phases only. The alloy is used for wear resistance properties, not for high temperature applications. The use of a pre-alloy using Al and Zr is not disclosed. The graphitic matrix is obtained by annealing, not straight upon casting. The graphite is disclosed as lamellar or nodular, not spheroidal. The alloy is grey cast, not spheroidal cast iron. The structure is described as martensitic or bainitic, not ferritic.
- (4) German Patent No. 29 15 217 entitled GREY ALLOY IRON FOR USE AT HIGH..., By Dobbener, published March 12, 1987. This patent discloses an iron which is melted, and then treated with alloys to obtain a compsn. by wt. of < 0.2% P, and 0-1.3% Cr, Ni, Cu and/or Mo. all these % being w.r.t. the % Fe. Next, 0.02-0.5% Ti, Zr, Hf, V, Nb, Ta and/or W are added w.r.t. the total wt. of the melt, followed by an inoculant. The inoculant pref. converts 5-50% of the carbonnitride forming elements present to nitrides, especially by using max. 0.1 wt % inoculant w.r.t. the % Fe. The castings are preferably used for parts subjected to high temp., or thermal shock especially in IC engine exhaust systems.
- (5) German Patent No. 42 22 104 entitled CAST-IRON@ IC ENGINE EXHAUST MANIFOLD..., By Dobbener, published January 13, 1994. This patent discloses

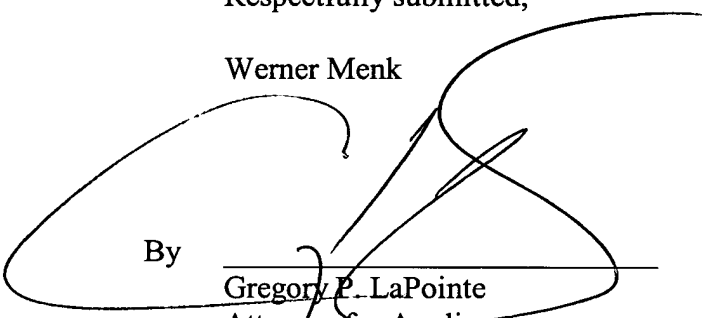
the cast-iron exhaust manifold is for an IC engine. The system is fitted with a catalyser and is designed to give a high degree of noise damping. At least one pipe section (A, B, C) is inserted into the manifold (1), and is of thin walled, temp. resistant material. This material is an alloy of chromium, nickel, molybdenum steel.

The undersigned submits the above-identified references for independent consideration by the Examiner and does not make any admission that these references are or are not material to the present invention or that these references are or are not prior art with respect to the present invention.

Respectfully submitted,


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By


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Date: October 22, 2003

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on October 22, 2003.


Rachel Piscitelli

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